Closure of Super Bazars

1875. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI ANANTA SETHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would review the decision to close the Super Bazar outlets;

(b) the reasons as a result of which the business and management of Super Bazar slumped and got set backs;

(c) the number of employees affected and the steps taken for their alternative employment; and

(d) whether there is any chance of getting this system streamlined to save basic interests of the employees and promote the facilities for Metro consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Super Bazar is a Multi-State Cooperative Society having its own Board of Directors to formulate the policies and procedures for its development. The reasons as a result of which the Super Bazar slumped and got setbacks are *inter-alia* due to over-staffing compared to the volume of business, inadequacy of working capital compared to the requirements, lack of credit-based supplies, non-recovery of outstanding dues, increasing level of fixed costs and wage bills, as also lack of professionalism in supervision and management.

(c) As on 31.3.2001 the Super Bazar had a total 2016 employees. Being a Multi-State Cooperative Society, the steps for their alternative employment can not be taken by the Government.

(d) The several financial constraints faced by Super Bazar have very adversely affected the overall functioning of the store. Its accumulative loss have reached a level of Rs. 39.28 crores (unaudited) by the end of 2000-2001. Considering all factors and present circumstances of Super Bazar, the Central Registrar of

Cooperative Societies (CRCS) has been requested to take action for the winding up of the Super Bazar under the provisions of Multi State Cooperative Society Act.

Malpractice by coaching centres

1876. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that institutes/centres in Delhi engaged in coaching for Engineering Entrance Examinations are charging entire fees in advance even for long duration course up to two years leaving no options for the students to withdraw in case they are not satisfied with the services;

(b) whether Government have issued any instructions/guidelines so that innocent public who has made the payment in advance is not cheated; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to instil business and professional ethics in such institutes/centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Coaching Institutes for Entrance Examination are not regulated by the Government.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Starvation deaths in Orissa

1877. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any further starvation deaths took place since 1st September, 2001 in Kashipur Village and other such poverty stricken areas of Orissa like Koraput, Bolangir and elsewhere in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government's attention was drawn to the report captioned, "They call it starvation death but it seems more like